



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

possible if the court should be found illiberal in the present crisis in social and industrial conditions, i.e., constitutional amendment, and proper attention to the personnel of the court and public criticism of its decisions. His conclusion is that neither of the remedies is of much effect.

Appended to the volume is an interesting summary of the cases in which the United States Supreme Court has held statutes unconstitutional, classified chronologically, by states and according to the clauses of the Constitution under which they come. It is worthy of note that in but thirty-three cases have statutes of the United States been held unconstitutional, but two hundred twenty-three state statutes were voided by the Supreme Court.

---

*The Economic Utilization of History.* By HENRY W. FARNAM. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1913. 12mo, pp. viii+220. \$1.25 net.

The economic utilization of history signifies the application of experimental methods to economic phenomena with the intent to discover general economic laws. It differs from the economic interpretation of history which emphasizes the historical element and is often merely descriptive, and it is of far bigger import than single isolated experiments in social policy. Neither of these other efforts seeks the determination of scientific laws. It is the author's contention, however, that by methods directly analogous to the experimental methods of other sciences economic laws can be formulated which may be the bases for scientific action, particularly as relates to economic pathology.

It is true that investigators cannot deliberately institute economic experiments, but it is also true that the exigencies of dynamic life are continually forcing upon society every sort of new procedure. It is the part of the student to observe these trial-and-error methods, and to furnish the machinery which shall collect and analyze all available material. In its widest and most practical application as concerns the affairs of a nation or of the world, this theory demands the fullest utilization of all educational activities, it necessitates co-operation between all social agencies and all state agencies—legislative, investigative, and administrative; it exacts the most minute details while proposing the highest aims. The author believes that the United States, with its various states legislating independently and under constantly changing conditions, offers a field of peculiar value for just this sort of experimentation.

The application of laboratory methods to special phases of economic activity is not new; it is the breadth of the application here outlined that brings the stimulating thought to the reader. Though countless controversial points and difficulties suggest themselves, nevertheless the conception embodies a practical idealism which presents a working basis for social philosophy. It was with this theory in mind that Professor Farnam has viewed his work with the American Association for Labor Legislation, the Connecticut

Conference of Charities and Corrections, and other public organizations. The latter chapters of the book, composed in the main of presidential addresses before these societies, are developments of the idea in its relations to contemporary life. It is interesting to note the actual achievements toward the desired ends that have been witnessed in the three or four years since these addresses were made. The present trend, consciously or unconsciously, is undoubtedly in the direction of scientific procedure.

Professor Farnam but sketches the outline of his theory; his book is by no means an exhaustive discussion of the subject and may even seem inadequate. But the principle established gives a new value to many of the fragmentary, groping efforts of society.

---

*Labor and Administration.* By JOHN R. COMMONS. New York: Macmillan, 1913. 8vo, pp. ix+431. \$1.60.

The student of labor problems is today confronted with the fact that the ideals of labor of the past decade, whether embodied in laws or in unions, have not been rewarded with full attainment. Labor laws have become dead letters and the ground gained by hard-won strikes has been lost. Too much confidence was placed in the efficacy of empty standards and abstract rights, and too little attention directed to the problems of interpreting and enforcing laws whose power for good depended largely upon the manner in which they were administered. The failure of preparatory legislation and newly organized unions to secure permanently the gains attained during a burst of enthusiasm has weakened the faith of some of the ardent "friends" of labor in laws and unions. There are others who, with the knowledge of actual conditions, see a field for constructive work in the drafting and enforcement of laws and in the everyday problems of wage-bargaining. This is the field which Mr. Commons has marked out for the utilitarian idealist. It is the unifying concept of this collection of articles. "These are the awakening questions of the past decade and the subject of this book. Attention is being shifted from laws to the means of enforcing them—from strikes to unions that safeguard the gains—from the rights of labor to the protection of its rights."

The great importance of investigation and research in this new field has been recognized in Wisconsin, and a vital connection between ideals and efficiency, between the theories of the university and the practice of the business community, has been established. The questions that confront the leaders of the school of social efficiency are those of the application of scientific principles to materialistic production with a view to the lasting improvement of the condition of the working classes and to a larger social output. In this program the necessity of continuous organization of labor is emphasized. The labor policy of capitalistic trusts, the pressure exerted by the efficiency engineer to lower the cost of production, and the competition between departments of the same business to increase efficiency all ignore, if they do not repress, the human